Patent Examiner

U.S.P.T.O

Go Day To You

I am rather concerned about the prior art section. According to the book I have, I am obligated to inform you about all the prior (and current) art that I know about. I had placed a large amount of information in the prior art section of my application. I have completed an Information Disclosure (IDS) statement for the relevant U.S. Patens. I have also completed and IDS for some information I have found through Internet searches. The problem is that the amount is information that may well be considered relevant is extremely large. I contacted the USPTO via phone this morning and was told that the simple inclusion of a URL is not satisfactory. I was further told that I must include a printed copy of all relevant information. I am not capable of printing all information that may be relevant. Numerous articles discussion the topic of electronics voting have links to numerous other items that are to some degree relevant. I have yet to find a company producing an electronic voting system that contains all the benefits that the subject of my application provides. I have yet to find all the elements of my application discussed as comprising possible entire voting system.

To my knowledge, these references show that my concepts are not common knowledge and are not obvious.

I hope that you find this meets the spirit of the law.

The web site for Rebecca Mercuri is probably the most productive in terms of information and links to other voting information.

In summary, I find numerous discussions and dissertations about technical details of making a voting system secure. As a working engineer in the computer science field I find that, as a whole, these methods, positions, and argument unsatisfactory. We do not need an esoteric proof of correctness. We need a simple one. I have not found any significant information that brings together the ideas I have presented in my application.

Please let me know if I need to or should have done this differently.

Michael B Kelly

The state of California has declared that there shall be a paper trail for all voting systems by the year 2005. This author has found no indication that all the concepts of this application have been utilized or brought together. The following URL was utilized.

http://www.ss.ca.gov/executive/press_releases/2003/03_106.pdf

The IEEE established project 1583 to create a standard for voting system security. Their document addressed numerous details of security but this author found no indication of a reference similar to the concepts of this application. The following URL was utilized.

http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/scc38/1583/p1583_-_tg1_main.htm

Diebold, a major company producing voting systems has had their software excoriated in the public arena. The concepts defined in this application, the isolation of subsystems, prohibition of communications links, verification of the ballot are not evident. These concepts eliminate the need for elaborate security guards. The following URL was utilized.

http://www.equalccw.com/dieboldtestnotes.html

A report issued via Rice University issued an essay "Analysis of an Electronic Voting System." It contains many discussions about software, encryption, PINs and other related topics. In the general theme is nothing indicating the basic concepts defined in this application. The essay was found at the following URL.

http://avirubin.com/vote.pdf

I found a Congressional Research Service (CRS) report to Congress. This report approaches the concepts of this application on page CRS-27 of the document found at the following URL.

http://www.epic.org/privacy/voting/crsreport.pdf

However, the complete concept of this application was not achieved. Near the end of page CSR-28 various arguments are made against the concepts of separation of function. The author of this application clearly does not agree on several points. A follow up and use of these concepts was not found. The author of this application takes the position that complex resolutions to problems are not always required. The concepts of this application put together several simple concepts to address the security problems found in electronics voting systems.

Additional information may be found via the magazine "Wired" at the following URL.

http://www.wired.com/news/evote/

This list of articles from Wired includes one about an Australian system that may be declared acceptable. That article was found at this URL and was found via the above Wired URL.

http://www.wired.com/news/evote/0,2645,61045,00.html?tw=wn_story_page_prev2

As with others, this system relies heavily of software design to provide security. The concept of this application is to avoid the need for extreme security through the use of separation of function and procedure.

The company Election Systems & Software of Omaha, Nebraska has a voting system line referred to as Ivotronic. I conclude that their system relies on technical merit. Their system does not incorporate the concepts defined in this application. Descriptions of their products can be found at this URL.

http://www.essvote.com/index.php?section=products&rightnav=products

The symposium "Choosing Clarity" was held on Saturday, December 6, 2003 at Swarthm

ore College. I have not been able to find any proceedings from the symposium. Information can be found via a google search on "choosing clarity" The following URL will provide more information.

http://scdc.sccs.swarthmore.edu/modules/symposium/

Rebecca Mercuri

The article/essay "A Better Ballot Box" by Rebecca Mercuri can be found here

http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/WEBONLY/publicfeature/oct02/evot.html

Her concept for a better ballot box is significantly different from mine. It can be found here

http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/WEBONLY/publicfeature/oct02/evotf1.html

Another paper by R. Mercuri, "Explanation of Voter Verified Ballot Systems" can be found here

http://www.notablesoftware.com/Papers/VoterVerify.html

Her web site has numerous additional links and was found here

http://www.notablesoftware.com/evote.html#Update

David Chaum

David Chaum wrote a paper concerning ballot receipts. The concept is significantly more complex that mine. The URL for the paper was

http://www.vreceipt.com/article.pdf

31 December 2003
Claim to Small Entity Status

To Whom It May Concern:
I, Michael Bryan Kelly as sole inventor am filing this as an individual. With respect to this patent application I am an individual and am not a part of any larger organization. As such I request and declare small entity status.

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